AZ Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Office

ADOA - ASET
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The Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Office is responsible for advancing interoperable communications in Arizona and supporting the Public Safety Communications Advisory Commission (PSCC) and Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) in performance of their missions. The Manager of the PSIC Office serves as the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), representing Arizona on regional and national initiatives.

Vision – Arizona's public safety personnel, at all levels of government and within non-governmental organizations, have access to quality interoperable communication systems, are adequately trained, and utilize such systems effectively in multi-disciplinary, multi-jurisdictional incident response.

Mission – The Public Safety Interoperable Communications Office will serve as a leader for Arizona in advancing public safety communications interoperability.

Key Priorities

- Advance public safety interoperable communications for all first responders
- Develop policies, standards, agreements and plans to advance interoperability
- Identify training, exercise and consulting resources for Arizona communities
- Provide technical consultation on programs funded by 30+ million in federal interoperability grants
- Support the PSCC and SIEC in performance of their missions
- Engage public safety stakeholders statewide

Information/Resources
The Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) defines a strategic vision and goals and objectives to improve interoperable communications statewide. The SCIP and other key documents, meeting minutes, technical standards and interoperability resources can be found at www.azpsic.gov.

Meetings
Arizona stakeholders interested in advancing interoperable communications are encouraged to attend public meetings of the PSCC and the SIEC. These meetings provide a forum for stakeholders to both inform and understand the objectives and strategies of PSCC, SIEC, as well as Arizona's SCIP. See the PSIC website at http://azpsic.gov/meetings/calendar.htm for the date, time and location of upcoming meetings.

Workshops/Training
Workshops and training on interoperability topics are available from time to time. Check the PSIC website for news and registration information at http://www.azpsic.gov/news/.

Contact Us
Our office can be reached by phone at (602) 364-4498 or by email at psic@azpsic.gov.

Sign up for the Public Safety Interoperable Communications Office e-mail list to receive the latest news, updates, and meeting announcements from the PSIC Office at http://www.azpsic.gov/news/.

http://www.azpsic.gov/

Arizona Interagency Radio System (AIRS) Channel
The Arizona Interagency Radio System (AIRS) is a suite of mutual aid channels designed to provide interoperable communications capabilities to first responders, as well as approved non-governmental organizations (NGO's) performing public safety activities. This system operates on designated interoperability frequencies to be used in the event of a multi-agency and/or multi-discipline operation requiring the use of the common state radio channel(s). They should be used specifically for the use of coordinating activities during identified incidents. Associated documents may be found at : http://www.azpsic.gov/library/airs/

- A *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)* must be signed with the AZ Dept of Public Safety, prior to operating on the AIRS frequencies
- *Training* is encouraged and available online and *training CD's* are available from the PSIC Office
- The *AIRS Standard Operating Procedures* establishes requirements and/or recommendations for programming of statewide interoperable channels into subscriber units and to provide guidance on the use of the interoperable channels during day-to-day and emergency use
- A list of *AIRS users/agencies* that have a signed DPS MOU
- *AZ Interoperable Channels Plan - Priority Programming Guide -* is intended to standardize and increase interoperable communications throughout the state. It is suggested that each agency incorporate these channels into their channel plan, train their users on their use, and utilize these channels during exercises and events involving multiple agencies and jurisdictions to assure proficiency.

Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP)
The TICP is a document that provides a countywide understanding of the available communications capabilities and assets. Assets include agency owned radio caches, mobile communications vehicles, gateways and more. Contained in the TICP are the steps individual agencies must follow to request, activate, use and deactivate each interoperable asset. By the end of 2013 all Arizona counties will have a TICP. A Statewide TICP will also soon be available as a reference for communications assets available statewide. Each county has identified a point of contact responsible for updating, approving and sharing the TICP. To determine the point of contact in your county and to request a copy, visit the bottom of this page: http://www.azpsic.gov/library/casm/.

Communications Assets Survey and Mapping Tool (CASM)
CASM is a secure web-based repository of communications assets across Arizona. CASM works in conjunction with each county's TICP to allow approved users the ability to identify where specific communications assets are located. CASM is provided by the US Dept of Homeland Security, Office of Emergency Communications through the Interoperable Technical Assistance Program (DHS/OEC ICTAP). PSIC maintains all AZ data within CASM. Details and forms may be found at http://www.azpsic.gov/library/casm/

Communications Unit Training & Recognition Program
During emergency response operations, radio communication is essential. Trained communications professionals working to achieve interoperability among responding agencies can significantly improve communications during an emergency incident. After action reports have shown that when a Communications Unit Leader (COML) is deployed during major incidents, the ability to communicate is significantly improved. Communications Unit Technicians (COMT) deployed during major events assist in restoring radio communications, among other tasks. The PSIC Office coordinates COMT and COML training courses across the state, as well as facilitating the Arizona Regional Recognition program. Details may be found at http://www.azpsic.gov/library/coml/.

Arizona Public Safety Broadband Network (AZPSBN)
AZPSBN will be part of the National Public Safety Broadband Network, which is led by an independent authority, First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). FirstNet will provide emergency responders with the first high-speed, nationwide network dedicated to public safety. Follow AZ and National broadband updates at: http://www.azpsic.gov/library/broadband/.